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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Letter dated 16 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a note verbale dated 24 August 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi. It protests against the naval exercises which, according to maritime circular No. 13/76 of the Ports and Navigation Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran annexed to note No. 1397 dated 21 July 1997 from its Embassy in Abu Dhabi, were carried out by Iran from 11 to 13 August 1997 on Abu Musa, an island that belongs to the United Arab Emirates. This is to be regarded as a flagrant violation by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the memorandum of understanding concluded by the two countries in 1971 concerning Abu Musa.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 39 and 148 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad J. SAMHAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

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ANNEX

Note verbale dated 24 August 1997 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi.

It would like to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the naval exercises which, according to maritime circular No. 13/76 of the Ports and Navigation Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran annexed to note No. 1396 dated 21 July 1997 from the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi, it carried out from 11 to 13 August 1997 on Abu Musa, an island that belongs to the United Arab Emirates, are to be regarded as a flagrant violation by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran of the memorandum of understanding concluded by the two countries in 1971 concerning Abu Musa. This act is to be regarded as imposing an unlawful state of affairs and as constituting an attempt to perpetuate the occupation of the island and bring it under Iranian sovereignty by use of force.

Accordingly, the Government of the United Arab Emirates strongly protests to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran against this unlawful action. It regards this and all previous measures taken by the Iranian Government on Abu Musa as unwarranted acts of provocation that do not confer any rights on the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to the island.

The United Arab Emirates reaffirms its sovereignty over Abu Musa. It once again affirms that it does not recognize any other sovereignty over the island, and it reserves all of its rights with regard thereto.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes this opportunity to convey to the Embassy the assurances of its highest consideration.